Docket Number: 008312-0305620 PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of KATSUO IWATA, et al.

Group Art Unit: 2627

Application No.: 10/651,039

Client Reference 14MT-03S0117-1

Examiner: GOMA, Tawfik A.

Filed: August 29, 2003

Confirmation No.: 8506

For: OPTICAL HEAD AND OPTICAL DISC APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner return an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to Applicants with the next Office communication to indicate that the reference(s) has been considered, per MPEP § 609.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

The references were cited in a Japanese Office Action. An English language version of the Japanese Office Action is attached for the Examiner's information.

English-language Abstracts of the non-English language references are attached hereto, and are relied upon for a statement of relevance for/those references.

Respectfully//Submitted,

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McLean, VA 22102

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